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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE LAWS OF ENGLAND, BEING A COMPLETE STATEMENT OF THE WHOLE LAW OF ENGLAND. By the Right Honorable the Earl of Halsbury and other lawyers. London: Butterworth & Co. Agents for the United States: Cromarty Law Book Co., Philadelphia, Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co., Rochester, New York. Vols. VI-XV (1909-1911).

Reviews of earlier volumes of this work have appeared in MICH. LAW REV. VI, p. 722 and VII, p. 710.

The editors have fulfilled their promise, given at the time the first volume was issued, of rapid publication of the succeeding volumes. Five volumes appeared in 1909, containing in Vol. VI, the subjects Compulsory Purchase—Constitutional Law; Vol. VII, Constitutional Law and Contempt of Court; Vol. VIII, Copyholds—County Courts; Vol. IX, Courts and Criminal Law; Vol. X, Crown Practice—Dependencies and Colonies. In 1910 appeared Vol. XI, Descent and Distribution—Ecclesiastical Law; Vol. XII, Education—Electric Lighting; Vol. XIII, Equity—Evidence; Vol. XIV, Execution—Fisheries. Volume XV, issued already in 1911, contains articles on Foods and Drugs, Fraudulent and Voidable Conveyances, Friendly Societies, Game, Gaming and Wagering, Gas, Gifts, Guaranties. It is quite evident that the completed work will extend far beyond the limit of the twenty volumes originally planned.

Among the contributors are many of the most famous English jurists, known as well on this side the water as at home. W. S. Holdsworth contributes the article on Constitutional Law and Sir William Anson the one on Education. One can not help wondering whether even with such collaborators as these the editors are going to succeed in their avowed intention of keeping away from the encyclopedia plan or, if they do, whether the product will be the more valuable for it. Encyclopedic in the sense of superficial and cursory the work certainly is not, but the attempt on the part of even the most scientific and philosophic of the contributors to state conclusions of law in something like a final form does not appear to be too successful. In the attempt to state the laws of England in systematic outline the writers are perforce of necessity compelled to ignore the historic development, which alone makes the principles comprehensible when stated. In our American encyclopedic works the editors have apparently met this difficulty by the skillful combination of note and text. The manifest rejoinder to this criticism by the English editors would of course be that this method defeats the very purpose they have in view, by making the result so bulky as to make it useless as a concise statement of the law. The skill with which they have accomplished their purpose is certainly worthy of all praise. Possibly the time for complete success in such an effort has not yet arrived and will not come until the laws of England have been subjected for a generation or more to the keen scientific analysis and philosophic generalization that have characterized the work of the German jurists on their material during the past

century. Many of the articles, however, in the present work represent the best that can be done for the laws of England along this line now, and will probably form the starting point for much of the work of a similar nature in the future.

A CONCISE LAW DICTIONARY OF WORDS, PHRASES AND MAXIMS. With an Explanatory list of Abbreviations used in Law Books. By Frederic Jesup Stimson, Professor of Comparative Legislation in Harvard University. Revised Edition by Harvey Cortlandt Voorhees of the Boston Bar, Author of "The Law of Arrest in Civil and Criminal Actions." Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1911, pp. 346.

The revision of this useful little dictionary for law students has not radically changed the Law Glossary originally prepared by Professor Stimson. Nearly two thousand words have been added to the old edition and many citations and cross references designed to add to the practical usefulness of the old book. One of the most valuable of the insertions is a list of Abbreviations, introduced under the caption of that word, extending over more than fifty pages and containing according to the editor practically all abbreviations to which reference will be required. An appendix contains a list of the British regnal years.

CASES ON ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. Selected from Decisions of English and American Courts. By Ernst Freund, Professor of Law in the University of Chicago. American Casebook Series, James Brown Scott, General Editor. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1911, pp. xxi, 681.

This, as the advertisement indicates, is one of the later volumes of the American Casebook Series. The aim of this series, to supply casebooks "physically adapted and intended for use as a whole in the class-room" on all, or nearly all, the subjects "required for admission to the bar" and "constructed upon a uniform plan under the supervision of an editor-in-chief" is as commendable as it is ambitious. The plan of the editor-in-chief, as expressed in the preface, to include in each book so much, and only so much, material as can be effectively covered in the time allotted to the subject to which the volume is devoted deserves approbation and, if it were carried out, would be greatly appreciated by the most of the teaching fraternity. The difficulty, if not the impossibility, of realizing such an ideal is demonstrated by this volume of the series, which, according to the editor's own estimate (four hundred pages for a two-hour course lasting a half year), contains over two hundred pages more of material than can be covered in the usual time of two hours per week for a half year allotted to Administrative Law by those schools which include the subject in their curriculum. This, however, is a common, even if much regretted, short-coming of casebooks, and so is not to be urged against this volume when comparing it with the ordinary production.

The material contained in this book is such as one would expect to find in a volume prepared by this learned author. The selection of cases is good,